



**The quarterly  
newsletter of the  
American Citizen  
Services Unit**

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# ACS Newsletter Fall 2013 Edition

Fall Issue—2013

U.S. Embassy Nairobi, Kenya

**U.S. Ambassador Robert F. Godec**

## ***“We Will Get Through This Together”***



On September 21<sup>st</sup>, a normal, pleasant Saturday afternoon at a shopping mall was shattered by a monstrous attack by a small band of terrorists. Words cannot adequately capture the horror, shock, and revulsion we all felt as we learned the details of the attack. Innocent men, women and children were murdered or injured. It is hard to make sense of such evil. But we must face it squarely.

Terrorism has two awful objectives. The first, immediate one is to kill and wound. The second and longer term objective is to divide us from one another. While those who carried out this unspeakable violence were striving to break the spirit of Americans and Kenyans, and civilized people everywhere, I say – without hesitation – that our spirit cannot and will not be broken. We will become even stronger, more resolved, and more committed to our values.

I know that many of you are worried about your safety and the safety of your families. Please know that we at the Embassy are doing and will continue to do everything we can to ensure the safety and security of U.S. citizens in Kenya. As we do so, I urge each of you to remain aware and alert. Vigilance continues to be of the utmost importance.

Along with many of you I lived through the 1998 Embassy bombing, another sad time when many of us lost family members, colleagues and friends. We pledged then never to forget, and to cherish the memories of those who died that day. And then we came together and returned to our lives and our work here in Kenya. Just as we did then, we will get through this together. We have been tested yet again. But we are strong. We are resilient. We have each other. While terrorists try to frighten us and drive us apart, they will not succeed. Once again, we will triumph. We will move forward together, as a community.

*Ambassador Godec*

## A Message from Consul General Mea Arnold



My name is Mea Arnold and I am the new Consul General at Embassy Nairobi. I arrived in mid-August, hoping to get my feet under me and get to know Kenya a bit better before being faced with a major crisis. But as we all know, life doesn't always go according to plan. My hectic first month in office was capped by the tragedy at Westgate. As Ambassador Godec has said, it is impossible to put into words the horror we all felt watching the news reports of the attack. For my team of American consular officers and Kenyan staff, there was also another thought flashing through our minds as we watched the news: "We've got work to do."

Crisis situations like Westgate are where we in the consular world really earn our paychecks, and I want to describe how we responded. We went to work 24/7 throughout the siege. After getting messages out to the American citizen community to stay away from the Westgate area, our next priority was to account for all American citizens thought to have been in the mall. We visited the injured in the hospitals and conferred with doctors, insurance company representatives, and relatives to make sure they got the best possible care. We spent hours at the morgue, making sure that no Americans were among the dead.

My staff fielded over 50 inquiries from concerned Americans back home, wondering if their loved ones were trapped in the mall. We were able to locate all these individuals and calm the fears of their anxious friends and relatives. As the crisis began to recede, we re-contacted American citizens who had been involved in the attack, answered questions and directed many to victim's assistance resources, as needed.

As we continue to review our lessons learned from the attack, the crisis made clear how important it is to keep your contact information updated. If you have not already registered with the Embassy via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), then I urge you to do so. If you registered a while ago, and your phone number or e-mail has changed, or maybe you've decided to stay in Kenya longer than you had originally planned, go back into the system and update those critical fields of information. These are simple actions that could literally save your life.

## Town Hall Meeting

The U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Robert F. Godec, invites all U.S. citizens in Kenya to a Town Hall to discuss the recent attack at Westgate mall and the current security situation.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.; entry will begin at 12:30

**Where:** "Tate House", Kyuna Road, Spring Valley, Nairobi  
Please note that parking at the venue is very limited. Consider taking a taxi, carpooling or asking your driver to drop you off and return once the event is finished.

**RSVP:** Please send your complete name to **Christine Lusk** at [luskc@state.gov](mailto:luskc@state.gov) All attendees must **RSVP** no later than **Monday, October 28** to ensure that their names are added to the guest list. On the day of the event, please be sure to bring a U.S. passport to clear security. Light refreshments will be available.

We look forward to your attendance and answering your questions. Speakers will include Ambassador Godec, the Consul General, the Regional Security Officer and the Political Counselor. A question and answer period will follow the presentations.

## What Can American Citizen Services Do For You?

**MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:**

We can help coordinate air evacuation, provide a list of hospitals or doctors, contact your family and friends (with your permission) and visit you in the hospital. In some cases, we can help arrange a loan for emergency medical care.

**FEDERAL BENEFITS:**

We can act as liaison for your Social Security and Veteran Affairs benefits.

**NOTARY SERVICES:**

We can provide notary services including notarization of affidavits.

**PASSPORTS:**

We can process your application for passport renewal, add pages to your passport, or report and replace a stolen or lost passport.

**SENDING MONEY:**

We can help your family members or friends send emergency funds to you.

**SELECTIVE SERVICES:**

We can help you enroll.

**TAXES:** We share information about filing U.S. taxes.

**TRAVELING AND LIVING IN KENYA:**

We maintain information about Kenya at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) regarding safety, security, Kenyan visa requirements and more.

**VOTING:** We can help you with absentee voting.

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## Follow Ambassador Godec's Travels on Twitter!



Ambassador Godec's Twitter feed (@BobGodec) is a great way to learn about the Ambassador's outreach across the country, keep track of Embassy news, and get insight into important local events.

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## Stay Informed! Enroll in the Smart Travelers Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

We encourage all U.S. citizens traveling or residing in Kenya to enroll in the U.S. Department of State's worldwide Smart Traveler program. Sign up for our free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (formerly known as "Travel Registration" or "Registration with Embassies") to receive the latest travel updates and information!

When you sign up, you will automatically receive the most current information we compile about Kenya. You will also receive updates, including Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts (where appropriate).

You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans!



## Profiles of American Citizens Living in Kenya

U.S. citizens living in Kenya are doing amazing things every day! In this new regular feature of the ACS Newsletter, we will spotlight some of those members of the community who are making a positive impact. If you want to be included in this section, send a message to [Kenya\\_ACS@state.gov](mailto:Kenya_ACS@state.gov).

# Community Spotlight Page

NEW REGULAR FEATURE

### Ester Josefa Marquez

Fourteen years ago, Ester sold all of her belongings, packed her bags and moved to Kenya. She settled down in Meru and Maasai Mara to do mission work. She started the new Hope Mission in Meru county and is hoping to build a church in the Maasai Mara. Ester has greatly impacted so many lives through projects for street children such as rehabilitation and vocational training.



### Jeff Davis and Craig Sorley

Jeff Davis, along with coworker Craig Sorley, have been diligently working to protect Kijabe Forest.

Jeff hired local Kenyans to patrol the forest several times each week in order to catch those who are cutting trees illegally for making posts or charcoal. They are also in collaboration with others to form a Kijabe Forest Trust which would empower the local community to take back their forest. Kijabe has recently suffered from several severe mudslides on April 27<sup>th</sup> of this year. The mudslides were caused partly by heavy rain, but were made much worse by the massive forest destruction that has taken place over the last 20 years.

## Profiles of American Citizens Living in Kenya

### John and Anne Martin

John and Anne Martin have lived in Kenya since 1998 raising 3 children here. During that time they worked with street children in Nairobi, people with HIV/AIDS in Nakuru and they have been running a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for men 18 and over in the Ridgeways area of Nairobi since 2008. The program is called Teen Challenge which has over 1,100 centers in over 94 countries of the world. Teen Challenge of Kenya is a registered NGO with the Kenyan government.

The Teen Challenge “students” stay for 1 year completing a rigorous program of work, study and outreach to high school students. Teen Challenge of Kenya has a talented choir that travels around Nairobi telling students of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. It is a very powerful presentation as the young men in the program share their lives, their lost opportunities, broken family ties, and the rock-bottom place to where addiction led them. Secondary students sit in rapt attention as the TC men tell their stories of opportunities to study abroad, good jobs, loving families that were lost and destroyed because of alcohol and drugs.

Teen Challenge of Kenya is preparing to open a second center in Nakuru to accommodate more people. John Martin, even though he is 70 years old, works tirelessly day and night seven days a week to help young men trapped in addiction transform their lives into becoming good fathers, faithful husbands, productive members of society and good citizens of Kenya.

### Scarlett Camargo

In June 2013 Fordham University School of Law sent Scarlett Camargo and her colleague, Rebecca Marlin, to Kenya to assist the Kenyan Sex Worker Alliance (“KESWA”) with its legal advocacy campaign. KESWA was founded in 2010 by the African Sex Workers Alliance, and is based in Nairobi.

The mission of KESWA is to end human rights abuses against male, female, and transgender sex workers through an advocacy campaign focused on changing public policy and practice of human rights law. In Kenya, Scarlett helped develop a legal strategy for KESWA to advocate for the human rights of sex workers, based on international laws and the Kenyan Constitution. She is currently conducting sex worker rights trainings to KESWA leaders as well as leaders of other sex workers’ rights organization in the neighboring areas surrounding Nairobi. This training of trainers seeks to ensure long-term process and program sustainability and combines substantive human rights content with participatory methods such as role playing and empowerment exercises. The goal of the trainings are to provide sex workers’ rights organizations with the tools to educate sex workers of their legal standing in the community and to assist sex workers with their own self-advocacy.



Pictured is one of the empowerment groups called “Waremba Sasa”

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*Except for Kenyan & American  
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## Upcoming Holidays

### American Holidays:

- November 11—Veteran's Day
- November 28—Thanksgiving Day
- December 25—Christmas Day



### Kenyan Holidays:

- December 12—Jamhuri Day
- December 26—Boxing Day

